

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 02401 190912Z
ACTION LAB-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 SIL-01 /031 W
-----034776 200524Z /16 10

R 181334Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO USICA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
SECSTATE WASHDC 5818

UNCLAS OSLO 2401

FOR ICP/DP MCHALE--PASS LABOR DEPT (I/LAB)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJ: LABOR SEMINAR AND IC EMBASSY SPEAKERS PROGRAM

SUMMARY: ICA-SUPPORTED LABOR SEMINAR ON "US LABOR MOVEMENT
IN AMERICAN LIFE" WAS HELD AT VOSS, MAY 6-7. TWENTY-FOUR
TRADE UNION AND LABOR OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE LO DISTRICT
SECRETARY AND PARTY CHAIRMAN AND DISTRICT SECRETARY FOR
HORDALAND (BERGEN), PARTICIPATED IN EMBASSY LABATT'S
BEST SEMINAR IN HIS TIME IN NORWAY.

PROGRAM: TWENTY-FOUR LABOR LEADERS AND LABOR PARTY OFFICERS
PARTICIPATED IN A TWO-DAY SEMINAR AT VOSS, MAY 6-7.
LO DISTRICT SECRETARY FINN LIEN OF BERGEN HOSTED THE
SEMINAR, WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY A GRANT FROM ICA. DISTRICT
SECRETARIES FROM ELEVEN UNIONS, PLUS HORDALAND'S LABOR
PARTY CHAIRMAN PEDER VANGSNES AND PARTY DISTRICT SECRETARY
MS. VIGDIS RAVNOEY, WERE ALSO PRESENT.

THE THEME OF THE SEMINAR WAS "US LABOR MOVEMENT
IN AMERICAN LIFE." EMBASSY LABATT INTRODUCED THIS
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SUBJECT WITH A SPEECH ON THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN
LABOR MOVEMENT, FOLLOWED BY A DESCRIPTION OF THE ROLE
OF AMERICAN UNIONS IN POLITICS. THE DISCUSSION WAS
AUGMENTED BY A SHOWING OF THE FILM "THE INHERITANCE,"
WHICH WAS WELL RECEIVED, AS ALWAYS. LABATT'S LATTER
SUBJECT WAS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE PARTICIPANTS,
WHO, LIKE OTHER EUROPEAN UNIONISTS, REMAIN CURIOUS ABOUT

THE ABSENCE OF A LABOR OR SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN THE US. THE EMBASSY'S FSL LABOR SPECIALIST SPOKE TO THE SEMINAR ON TWO SUBJECTS, THE US SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM AND ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

COMMENT: THE BERGEN SEMINAR WAS IN EVERY WAY THE BEST THAT THE CURRENT LABATT HAS CONDUCTED, BOTH IN TERMS OF THE HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS, AND THE QUALITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS, ALL REGIONAL LEADERS OF KEY UNIONS IN THE INDUSTRIAL AREA SURROUNDING NORWAY'S SECOND CITY. THIS TYPE OF PROGRAM CONTINUES TO BE EXTREMELY USEFUL TO THE EMBASSY AND THE LABATT IN ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH LOCAL LEADERS IN VARIOUS REGIONS OF NORWAY. THE VOSS SEMINAR, FOLLOWING THE STAVANGER SEMINAR IN SEPTEMBER 1977, WAS THE SECOND OF FY 1978. ONE MORE SEMINAR IS PLANNED FOR FINNMARK, NORWAY'S NORTHERNMOST REGION, IN SEPTEMBER 1978.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS; AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM: ON THE SAME TRIP, THE LABATT, ASSISTED BY FSL LABOR SPECIALIST, SPOKE ON THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT TO THE ENGLISH STUDENTS OF THE BERGEN TEACHERS' COLLEGE. THE PROGRAM WAS WELL RECEIVED. ON MAY 10, LABATT DISCUSSED LABOR, POLITICAL, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE US WITH 12 GRADUATE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN'S AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM. TWENTIETH CENTURY SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS WERE RELATED TO STUDENTS'S WORK IN AMERICAN LITERATURE, UNCLASSIFIED

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PARTICULARLY INVOLVING THOSE AUTHORS DEALING WITH SOCIAL THEMES LIKE DOS PASSOS, STEPHEN CRANE, UPTON SINCLAIR, JACK LONDON, JAMES AGEE, AND OTHER. THE BERGEN STUDENTS WERE MOST IMPRESSIVE, BOTH IN BACKGROUND AND IN INTEREST IN US SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. LERNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: OSLO
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 77c5309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION LAB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2651659
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR SEMINAR AND IC EMBASSY SPEAKERS PROGRAM SUMMARY: ICA-SUPPORTED LABOR SEMINAR ON "US LABOR MOVEMENT IN AMERICAN LIFE" WAS HELD AT VOSS, MAY 6-7 . TWENT
TAGS: ELAB, US, NO
To: ICA
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/77c5309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014